EXCISE (154)

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TAGS: PARM, MMOL, SHUM, SREF, PBOR, PORG, SOPN, CB, VM, UR
SUBJECT: KPNLF SOURCE RECOUNTS ALLEGED PAVN USE OF
- - CBW AND POSSIBLE PAVN CBW TREATMENT KIT
REF: (A) BANGKOK 26384 (NOTAL) (B) BANGKOK 23592
1. [redacted] MAY 23, B1A9
TOLD EMBOFF THAT ON JULY 26, 1980 HE WAS WITH A SMALL
CONTINGENT OF KPNLF TROOPS WHICH ENGAGED A PAVN
UNIT NEAR AMPIL (TA 9975) IN KAMPUCHEA. [redacted] B1A9
[redacted] CLAIMED THAT DURING THE ATTACK THE PAVN
TROOPS USED CHEMICAL WEAPONS. THE ENCOUNTER

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INITIALLY INVOLVED ONLY AN EXCHANGE OF SMALL ARMS
FIRE, BUT AFTER ABOUT TEN MINUTES, PAVN FORCES
FIRED THREE VOLLEYS OF FOUR CYLINDRICAL TUBES
AT THE KPNLF POSITION, ONLY ABOUT THIRTY METERS
FROM THE PAVN LINE. THE THREE VOLLEYS FOLLOWED
A LOW TRAJECTORY AND LANDED APPROXIMATELY SEVEN
TO TEN METERS APART WITH SPACING OF ABOUT ONE TO
TWO METERS BETWEEN EACH TUBE WITHIN A VOLLEY.
THE TUBES, WHICH HE SAW, APPEARED TO BE MADE OF
ALUMINUM OR SOME OTHER SILVERY METAL AND WHICH
WERE 4-5 INCHES LONG, EMITTED A YELLOW SMOKE
FROM ONE END. SOURCE SUBSEQUENTLY HEARD FROM AN
UNSPECIFIED SOURCE THAT THE TUBE-PROJECTILES WERE
FIRED FROM A SINGLE WEAPON WHICH WORKED ELECTRONICALLY,
FIRING THE PROJECTILES SIMULTANEOUSLY (NFI).
2. SOURCE SAID THAT THE KPNLF TROOPS WERE DOWNWIND

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FROM THE POINT OF IMPACT AND WERE IMMEDIATELY AFFECTED BY THE SMOKE WHICH CAUSED VOMITING (NO BLOOD), TEARING, HEADACHE, AND COLLAPSE. SUBSEQUENTLY, VICTIMS DEVELOPED DIARRHEA (NO BLOOD) WHICH LASTED APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK. NAUSEA, BUT NOT VOMITING, CONTINUED FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE DAY.

3. SOURCE SAID THAT IN THAT SAME PERIOD, THOUGH NOT IN THIS ENCOUNTER, A PAVN SOLDIER FROM THE 75TH DIVISION (NFI) DESERTED TO THE KPNLF. AMONG HIS GEAR, HE CARRIED A SMALL WHITE CARDBOARD BOX, A LITTLE SMALLER THAN A PACK OF CIGARETTES, WHICH BORE CYRILLIC WRITING. INSIDE THE BOX WERE TWO 1-1/2-2 INCH GLASS AMPULES OF A CLEAR LIQUID AND SEVERAL BALLS OF COTTON. THE VIETNAMESE SOLDIER SAID THAT THE PACKET WAS FOR DECONTAMINATION AFTER

EXPOSURE TO CHEMICAL WEAPONS. [redacted]

DIA 4

4. COMMENT: AS DESCRIBED, THE TREATMENT PACKET APPEARS SIMILAR, BUT NOT IDENTICAL, TO THOSE REPORTED BY PAVN DESERTERS REFTELS. AS FOR THE DESCRIPTION OF CBW PROJECTILES ON THE THAI-KHMER BORDER, WE KNOW OF NO SIMILAR SUCH REPORT.

DEAN

part make their way to the big cities of the south or center of the European USSR, creating such concentrations in some cities as to complicate seriously the efforts of local organs to place and house them. This is blamed largely on inadequacies of "explanatory work" directed at persuading the officers that their greatest opportunity for happiness and service lies in permanent work at construction sites and factories in the North, Urals, and Siberia, and on collective and state farms in the virgin lands areas. Conceding that not every reserve or retired officer is of an age or health suitable for work in factories and farms, the editor states that all must be drawn into socially useful labor of one sort or another.

The first half of the editorial, citing positive examples of former officers who have made names for themselves in agricultural work, commenced with a reference to the reserve lieutenant colonel whose letter N.S. Khrushchev had read in the course of his speech at Sverdlovsk March 2. However, nothing was said of the basic proposal made by the writer (which Khrushchev said would be studied) for establishing special one-year schools or courses to prepare released middle-aged officers for responsible posts in agriculture.

7. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY) Lenin's 91st Birthday and the Lenin Prizes. The 91st anniversary of Lenin's birth April 22 was given heavy attention by Soviet media. Not a paper in the central or Republic press was without a large picture and several pages of historical photos, laudatory prose, and poems of tribute. Commemorative meetings addressed by local party personages were held throughout the country, and a special postage stamp was issued. As customary, the list of recipients of Lenin prizes for the arts, sciences, and related fields was released the same day. As anticipated since their nomination for the honor, pianist S.T. Rikhter (for concert activities) and writer A.T. Tvardovskiy (for his poem "Space Beyond Space" -- which included a revealing critique of Stalin excesses) were so honored.

The list of successful candidates also provides evidence of the significant contribution made to the Soviet arts and sciences by Soviet Jews. Although the latter account for only a little over 1 percent of the population, 8 percent of the prize recipients were Jews (among them the Soviet scientist A.F. Ioffe, whose picture was prominently displayed in all papers). The fact that members of the Jewish intelligentia have received generous recognition in the awards list will help the regime counter charges of anti-semitism here.

MILITARY

Negative.

For the Ambassador:

Boris H. Klosson

Boris H. Klosson
Counselor for Political Affairs

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